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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Amended) A polypeptide produced by a the process of ~~Claim 6~~ comprising steps of:

expressing in a host cell an expression vector, wherein the expression vector comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of

- (a) the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1;
- (b) a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2;
- (c) a nucleotide sequence corresponding to nucleotide position number 181 to 795 in SEQ ID NO:1; and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to the complement of any one of (a) to (c) under conditions of 50% formamide, 50mM potassium phosphate, pH 6.5; 5x SSC; 1%SDS; 5x Denhardt's; 0.05% sodium sarcosyl; and 300 µg/ml salmon sperm DNA at 42°C overnight and washed to a final stringency of 1x SSC, 0.1% SDS and 42°C, wherein the nucleotide sequence encodes a polypeptide fragment having an activity of regulating JNK (c-Jun amino terminal kinase) activation or modulating JNK signal mediated signal transduction; and

isolating the polypeptide expressed from the expression vector in the host cell.

8. (Amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NOS: 2 ~~or~~ 4;
- (b) a fragment of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOS: 2 ~~or~~ 4 comprising at least about 25, 50, 75, 100, or greater than 100 amino acid residues wherein the fragment has an activity of regulating JNK activation or modulating JNK-mediated signal transduction; or serves as an antigen for generating antibodies;
- (c) an ortholog of SEQ ID NOS: 2 ~~or~~ 4 wherein the ortholog has an activity of regulating JNK activation or modulating JNK signal mediated signal transduction; and

(d) an allelic variant or splice variant of (a), or (c) wherein the allelic variant or splice variant has an activity of regulating JNK activation or modulating JNK signal mediated signal transduction.

9. (Amended) An isolated polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of ~~Claim 1~~ selected from the group consisting of

- (a) the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1;
- (b) a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2;
- (c) a nucleotide sequence corresponding to nucleotide position number 181 to 795 in SEQ ID NO:1; and
- (d) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to the complement of any one of (a) to (c) under conditions of 50% formamide, 50mM potassium phosphate, pH 6.5; 5x SSC; 1%SDS; 5x Denhardt's; 0.05% sodium sarcosyl; and 300 ug/ml salmon sperm DNA at 42°C overnight and washed to a final stringency of 1x SSC, 0.1% SDS and 42°C, wherein the nucleotide sequence encodes a polypeptide fragment having an activity of regulating JNK (c-Jun amino terminal kinase) activation or modulating JNK signal mediated signal transduction.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12.(Original) A fusion polypeptide comprising the polypeptide of Claim 8 fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence.

13. (Original) The fusion polypeptide of Claim 12 wherein the heterologous amino acid sequence is an IgG constant domain or fragment thereof.

14-21. (Canceled)